

REMARKS

In the claims the use of the wording "television based game" is intended to mean or be defined as a game that can be displayed by a television. The game may actually run on an image generation machine such as a game console, set-top box or the like, linked to a television. If the Examiner did not examine the claims with this or a closely similar definition in mind, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to notify Applicant of such in writing.

In the claims the use of the wording "3-D graphics" is intended to mean or be defined as imagery displayed by a television or the like and the imagery has depth, so that, as a first example, when a distant object passes behind a close object, the close object obscures all or part of the distant object, and as a second example, a 3-D object displayed on the television may rotate or appear to rotate as the portion of the object which the viewer would normally see in a real world object is displayed and the portion which the viewer would not normally see is not displayed. Thus "3-D graphics" mimic our three dimensional world but may be displayed on a two dimensional television screen. No special equipment (e.g. 3-D glasses or the like) is required to view "3-D graphics" as displayed by a television. If the Examiner did not examine the claims with this or a closely similar definition in mind, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to notify Applicant of such in writing.

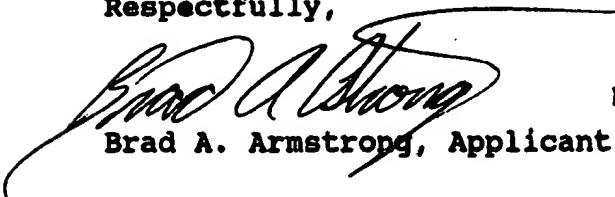
In the claims the use of the wording "hand", "hand inputs", "manual inputs" and "hand operated controller", is intended to be consistent with the U.S. Patent Office classification 463/37 "Player-actuated control structure wherein the means for deriving an information signal includes structure intended and arranged to interact with that part of a participant's arm beyond the wrist (i.e., the hand, including the palm, fingers, and thumb, etc.) so

as to derive an information signal in response to motion of any part of the hand." Applicant believes the above Patent Office definition is fully supported in Applicant's disclosure and is consistent with Applicant's original and current intent. If the Examiner did not examine the claims with this or a closely similar definition in mind, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to notify Applicant of such in writing.

In the claims the use of the word "element" is intended to mean or be defined as a singular structure, member, part, component or the like, or a plurality of structures, members, parts, components or the like, as disclosed in Applicant's disclosure and their equivalents. If the Examiner did not examine the claims with this or a closely similar definition in mind, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to notify Applicant of such in writing.

Also, please do not hesitate to telephone me at 530 872 4901 if I may be of any assistance. Thank you.

Respectfully,


Brad A. Armstrong, Applicant

Date: March 11, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS IN MARKED UP VERSION

Please amend the following claims 57, 63 and 70 wherein underlining shows insertions and bracketing shows deletions. Thank you.

57. (once amended) A controller comprising structure [structured for] allowing manual inputs to rotate a platform on two mutually perpendicular axes, the rotation translated into electrical signals by four unidirectional sensors associated with the platform, the signals at least in part [useful for] controlling objects and navigating a viewpoint, the controller including a vibrator [for] providing vibration detectable by a human user inputing to the controller; the unidirectional sensors including spacing preventing false activation by the vibration.

63. (once amended) A hand operated controller comprising structure [structured for] allowing hand inputs rotating a platform on two mutually perpendicular axes to be translated into electrical outputs by four unidirectional sensors to allow controlling objects and navigating a viewpoint, said unidirectional sensors including spacing generally preventing false activation through vibration, the controller including a tactile feedback means for providing vibration detectable by the user through the hand operating the controller;

a second element movable on two mutually perpendicular axes, said second element structured to activate two bi-directional proportional sensors [for] providing outputs at least in part [useful for] controlling objects and navigating a viewpoint;

a third element movable on two mutually perpendicular axes, said [second] third element structured to activate two bi-directional proportional sensors [for] providing outputs at least in part [useful for] controlling objects and navigating a viewpoint;

a plurality of independent finger depressible buttons, each button associated with

a button sensor, said button sensor outputs at least On/Off data to allow controlling of the objects.

70. (once amended) A hand operated controller comprising structure [structured for] allowing hand inputs rotating a platform on two mutually perpendicular axes to be translated into electrical outputs, the controller structured with four unidirectional sensors to allow controlling objects and navigating a viewpoint, said unidirectional sensors including spacing generally preventing false activation through vibration, the controller including an electro-mechanical tactile feedback means for providing vibration detectable by the user through the hand operating the controller;

a second element movable on two mutually perpendicular axes, said second element structured to activate two bi-directional proportional sensors;

a third element movable on two mutually perpendicular axes, said third [second] element structured to activate two bi-directional proportional sensors;

a plurality of independent finger depressible buttons, each button associated with

a button sensor, said button sensor outputs at least On/Off data;

the sensors are connected by at least one sheet, said at least one sheet comprises

a flexible membrane sheet connected to
a circuit board sheet.